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(3) FISH & RICHARDSON 6175428906

NO. 1764 P. 15

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In the claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) Apparatus comprising

a lubricator to apply lubricant to a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricator including a coupling feature to mate with a corresponding coupling feature of a bushing.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the strand comprises an insulated electrical wire or the like.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the coupling feature of the lubricator comprises threads.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the threads comprise external threads.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the lubricator also includes a second coupling feature configured to mate with a corresponding coupling feature of the conduit.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the second coupling feature of the lubricator comprises threads.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the threads comprise internal threads.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 in which a body of the lubricator is formed of two connectable components.

23. (New) Apparatus comprising

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a lubricator to apply lubricant to a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricator including

an external thread to mate with a corresponding internal thread of a bushing, and an internal thread to mate with a corresponding external thread of the conduit.

24. (New) Apparatus comprising

a lubricator to apply lubricant to a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricator comprising two body sections that can be connected to one another to form the lubricator, each of the body sections comprising a sleeve, the sleeves of the two body sections being aligned when the two body sections are connected to form the body, and a pin that slides into the sleeves to hold the body sections together.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the lubricator includes an axis that is aligned along the length of the strand and the pin includes an axis that is parallel to the lubricator axis.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 in which each body comprises a second sleeve, the second sleeves of the two body sections are aligned when the two body sections are connected to form the body, and a second pin slides into the second sleeves to also hold the body sections together.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 in which the lubricator includes an axis that is aligned along the length of the strand and the second pin includes an axis that is parallel to the lubricator axis.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the strand comprises an insulated electrical wire or the like.

29. (New) Apparatus comprising

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lubricators, each of the lubricators to lubricate a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricators being sized respectively for use with conduit of different sizes.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 29 in which each of the lubricators includes a coupling feature to mate with a coupling feature of the conduit.
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30 in which the coupling feature comprises an internal thread.
32. (New) The apparatus of claim 29 also including a coupling feature to mate with a coupling feature of a bushing.
33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32 in which the coupling feature comprises an external thread.
34. (New) Apparatus comprising a lubricator to apply lubricant to a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricator including threads to mate with corresponding threads of the conduit.
35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34 in which the strand comprises an insulated electrical wire or the like.
36. (New) An automatic wire lubricating device, comprising:
 - (a) two body sections each having opposite ends and respective end faces on said opposite ends, each of said body sections defining a portion of an interior reservoir formed by said body sections when assembled together at said end faces;
 - (b) a fastener to releasably fasten said body sections together at said end faces to form an annular body having a longitudinal central axis, said fastener including

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(i) sleeves attached at said opposite ends of each of said body sections and aligned axially with one another in pairs along opposite side axes which extend substantially parallel to said longitudinal central axis and lie substantially in a common plane formed by said end faces when said body sections are assembled into said annular body, and

(ii) a pair of pins inserted through one of said pairs of aligned sleeves along said one of said opposite side axes for releasably securing said assembled body sections together;

(c) passages to provide flow communication from said interior reservoir to said central opening when said body sections are fastened together; and

(d) threads formed by said assembled body sections at one of said axially displaced ends to attach a member to facilitate application of lubricant on wire being pulled through said nipple and said central opening of said annular body.

37. (New) An automatic wire lubricating device, comprising:

(a) two body sections each having opposite ends and respective end faces on said opposite ends, each of said body sections defining a portion of an interior reservoir formed by said body sections when assembled together at said end faces;

(b) a fastener to releasably fasten said body sections together at said end faces to form an annular body having a longitudinal central axis, said fastener including

(i) sleeves attached at said opposite ends of each of said body sections in offset relation to one another and extending substantially equidistantly in opposite directions in relation to said interior reservoir, said sleeves at a respective one of said opposite ends of said body sections being aligned axially with one another in pairs along opposite side axes which extend substantially parallel to said longitudinal central axis and lie substantially in a common plane formed by said end faces when said body sections are assembled together into said annular body, and

(ii) a pair of pins each inserted through one of said pairs of aligned sleeves along said one of said opposite side axes for releasably securing said assembled body sections together;

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- (c) passages to provide flow communication from said interior reservoir to said central opening when said body sections are fastened together; and
- (d) a seal located at said end faces and at opposite ends of halves of said interior reservoir to make a tight seal of and provide communication between said halves of said interior reservoir when said first and second components are fastened together.

38. (New) An automatic wire lubricating device, comprising:

- (a) two body sections each having opposite ends and respective end faces on said opposite ends, each of said body sections defining a portion of an interior reservoir formed by said body sections when assembled together at said end faces;
- (b) a fastener to releasably fasten said body sections together at said end faces to form an annular body having a longitudinal central axis, said fastener including
 - (i) sleeves attached at said opposite ends of each of said body sections in offset relation to one another and extending substantially equidistantly in opposite direction relative to said continuous cylindrical interior reservoir and partially projecting beyond said flat end faces of said body sections such that said sleeves at a respective one of said opposite ends of said body sections are aligned axially with another in pairs along opposite side axes which extend substantially parallel to said longitudinal central axis of said annular body and lie substantially in a common plane formed by said flat end faces when said body sections of said first and second components are assembled together into said annular body, and
 - (ii) a pair of pins each inserted through and withdrawable from one of said pairs of axially aligned hollow sleeves along one of said opposite side axes for releasably securing said assembled body sections together into said annular body and for taking apart from one another said assembled body sections of said annular body, said pins being inserted in the same one direction along said respective parallel side axes through said pairs of aligned hollow sleeves for releasably securing said assembled body sections together into said annular body and correspondingly said pins being withdrawable in a same other direction being the reverse of said

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same one direction along said respective parallel side axes from said pairs of aligned hollow sleeves for taking said body sections apart from one another;

(c) circumferentially spaced dispensing holes defined through interior walls portions of said body sections which provide flow communication between said interior reservoir and said central opening;

(d) threads formed by said assembled body sections at one of said axially displaced ends to attach a member to facilitate application of lubricant on wire being pulled through said nipple and said central opening of said annular body;

(e) threads formed by the other of the axially displaced ends of said annular body to attach to a threaded end of a conduit through which the wire is to be pulled; and

(g) hollow coupler pins attached on said flat end faces and having O-rings disposed around said hollow coupler pins so as to make a tight seal of said interior reservoir at said flat end faces of said body sections when said first and second components are fastened together.